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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/603,931	06/26/2003	Sang-Min Jang	041993-5218	3408

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MORGAN LEWIS & BOCKIUS LLP
1111 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE NW
WASHINGTON, DC 20004

EXAMINER

WANG, GEORGE Y

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2871

DATE MAILED: 02/22/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

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Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/603,931	JANG ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	George Y. Wang	2871	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-50 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 20-31 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-19 and 32-50 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 26 June 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____. |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____. | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____. |

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on September 16, 2005 has been entered.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to

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consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

3. Claims 1-19 and 32-50 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kim et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,517,342, hereinafter "Kim") in view of Sato (U.S. Patent No. 6,770,908).

4. As to claims 1 and 32, Kim discloses a liquid crystal display (LCD) device and method (fig. 1) comprising a plurality of data lines (fig. 1, ref. 5a) along a first direction and a plurality of gate lines (fig. 1, ref. 1) along a second direction that are arranged perpendicular to define a plurality of pixel regions (col. 2, lines 30-31), such that each of the gate lines have at least one first set of protrusions and depressions (fig. 1, ref. 10) extending in a direction substantially perpendicular to a surface of the substrate on which the gate lines are arranged, a driving device (fig. 1, ref. TFT) within each pixel region, and a pixel electrode (fig. 1, ref. 4) within each pixel region.

However, the reference fails to specifically disclose a separate metal layer overlapping each of the gate lines to create a storage capacitor.

Sato discloses an LCD device and method having a separate metal layer overlapping each of the gate lines to create a storage capacitor (fig. 1, ref. 70).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have a separate metal layer overlapping each of the gate lines to create a storage capacitor since one would be motivated to prevent leakage of the

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maintained image signal (col. 11, lines 39-42). Ultimately, this serves to provide a display device in which respective pixels have a high opening ratio and where deterioration of the characteristics of the TFTs due to light leakage can be reduced for yielding a high image quality display (col. 4, lines 5-11).

5. Regarding claims 2-4 and 33-35, Kim discloses the LCD device and method as recited above where the first set of protrusions and depressions is arranged along the first and second directions, forming a lattice shape (fig. 1, ref. 10).

6. As per claim 5-6 and 36-37, Kim discloses the LCD device and method as recited above where the driving device includes a thin film transistor (TFT) (fig. 1, ref. TFT), a gate electrode (fig. 5, ref. 1), a gate insulating layer (fig. 5, ref. 2), a semiconductor layer (fig. 5, ref. 3), and a source electrode (fig. 5, ref. 5b) and a drain electrode (fig. 5, ref. 5a) on the semiconductor layer.

7. As to claims 7-10 and 38-41, Kim discloses the LCD device and method as recited above having a protrusion layer that includes metal material (fig. 1, ref. 10; col. 2, lines 60-63) and insulation material (fig. 2, ref. 2), however, the reference fails to specifically disclose at least one first protrusion/depression layer on the substrate.

Sato discloses an LCD device and method that has at least one first protrusion/depression layer on the substrate (fig. 3, ref. 10CV).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have included at least one first protrusion/depression layer on the substrate since one would be motivated to reduce defective images resulting from faulty orientation of the liquid crystals (col. 14, lines 9-19). Ultimately, this serves to provide a display device in which respective pixels have a high opening ratio and where deterioration of the characteristics of the TFTs due to light leakage can be reduced for yielding a high image quality display (col. 4, lines 5-11).

8. Regarding claims 11-12 and 42-43, Kim discloses the LCD device and method as recited above where the metal layer includes metal material similar to the metal material of the source and drain electrodes (col. 9, lines 20-24).

9. As per claims 13-19 and 44-50, Kim discloses the LCD device and method as recited above where at least one first protrusion/depression layer on the semiconductor layer (fig. 5, ref. 3) and along the source and drain electrodes (fig. 5, ref. 5a, 5b), forming a lattice shape (fig. 1), and further including a metal material (fig. 1, ref. 10; col. 2, lines 60-63) and insulation material (fig. 2, ref. 2).

Response to Arguments

10. Applicant's arguments filed September 16, 2005 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicant amends the independent claims to now recite that each of the gate lines has at least one first set of protrusions and depressions "extending in a direction substantially perpendicular to a surface of the substrate on which the gate lines are arranged," which was an attempt to distinguish from the previous limitation "extending with respect to a thickness direction of the substrate." However, the amendment does not adequately overcome the prior art references used. The reason is because the substrate is a three-dimensional component and thus has three thicknesses. Because neither the claims or the specification specifies what is meant by this thickness direction and because it appears to be not different than the previous (now deleted limitation discussed above), it is clear that the Kim reference teaches that each of the gate lines has at least one first set of protrusions and depressions (fig. 1, ref. 10) extending in a direction substantially perpendicular to a surface of the substrate on which the gate lines are arranged.

As a result, Applicant's amendment and arguments to not place this application in condition for allowance as this time.

Conclusion

11. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to George Y. Wang whose telephone number is 571-272-2304. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F, 8 am - 4:30 pm.


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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Robert H. Kim can be reached on 571-272-2293. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

George Y. Wang
Examiner
Art Unit 2871

February 16, 2006


ANDREW SCHECHTER
PRIMARY EXAMINER